

Subject Line: 2014 Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting Announces Plenary Schedule

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Waco, Texas – A pioneering collaboration across disciplines within the field of aquatic science, the inaugural Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting (JASM) promises to be the perfect venue for aquatic scientists, engineers, students, educators, policy makers, and other stake holders to gather and share their expertise. Co-sponsored by the Society for Freshwater Science (SFS), Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO), Phycological Society of America (PSA), and Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS), the meeting will be held at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon on 18-23 May 2014.

The Scientific Planning Committee has developed an exciting program covering a wide range of topics in aquatic sciences. The theme for the meeting is “Bridging Genes to Ecosystems: Aquatic Science at a Time of Rapid Change.” An important aim of this meeting includes working toward an integrative understanding of aquatic systems and fostering collaboration and interaction across the participating societies. To these ends, the meeting planning committee has developed five Plenary-Themed Integrative Sessions to accompany each of the five meeting plenary talks. Plenary presentations are each morning of the meeting, Monday 19 May through Friday 23 May from 8:00 to 9:00am. Each morning has a different speaker with successive plenary-themed integrative sessions.

Monday’s plenary speaker is Stuart Bunn; Director of the Australian Rivers Institute, who will discuss global water policy in his talk, entitled *The Global Water Crisis: Is freshwater ecology effectively informing the debate?* Tuesday, Laurel Larsen, associate professor at the University of Californian, Berkeley, will discuss Connectivity and Landscape in her talk, *Pattern from Process: Simple strategies for understanding complex dynamics in aquatic landscapes.* Wednesday, Virginia Armbrust, the Director of the School of Oceanography, at the University of Washington and Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation Marine Microbiology Investigator 2012-2017, will present her talk, *Genomic Insights in Microbial Ecosystems.* Patricia Soranno, a freshwater ecologist and professor at Michigan State University, will discuss *Landscape Limnology: Understanding freshwaters at regional to continental scales*, on Thursday. And Julian Olden, Associate Professor at the University of Washington, will close out the meeting on Friday, with his talk on conservation - *Fish out of Water: Will freshwater fishes keep pace with climate change?*

The meeting will be kicked off with an opening keynote presentation on Sunday, 18 May 2014 by scientist, turned film –maker, Randy Olson. Dr. Olson, is the writer/director of the feature films, “Flock of Dodos: The Evolution-Intelligent Design Circus,” “Sizzle: A Global Warming Comedy,” and author of “Don’t Be Such a Scientist: Talking Substance in an Age of Style.” His work focuses on the challenges involved in communicating science to the general public, and the current attacks on mainstream science in fields such as evolution and climate science. He is a former marine biologist with a Ph.D. from Harvard University, who achieved tenure at the University of New Hampshire before changing careers to filmmaking by obtaining an M.F.A. in Cinema from the University of Southern California. In addition to writing and directing his own feature films about major issues in science, he has worked with a variety of clients to assist them with the use of visual media in communicating science to the general public. Through his writings he has both related his journey, and continues his exploration into the role of storytelling in the mass communication of science.

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